

Hexham  
Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

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HEXHAM:  
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# Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR 1914.

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CARNTYNE,

HEXHAM,

March, 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEXHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

AREA, 5,149 ACRES.

POPULATION, 8,500.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report, together with that of your Surveyor, for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1914.

During the year 1914, 121 deaths were registered in your district. 21 of these occurred in Public Institutions. 13 deaths were transferred to and 8 away, leaving 126 as the nett number of deaths. This is the same as 1912, but 15 more than 1913, and is equivalent to a death-rate of 14·82 per 1,000 on an estimated population of 8,500. Corrected according to the requirements of the Registrar-General, your death-rate is 13·91.

Your average death-rate uncorrected for five years, 1908 to 1912 inclusive, was 13·78. For 1912 it was the same figure as this year; for 1913 it was lower, being 13·05. This is hardly satisfactory. I should like to see a more steady decline in the death-rate of Hexham. Though the large number of deaths over 65 is likely to be a factor in keeping the death-rate at a higher level, it is, however, much more satisfactory that the increase should be from this factor, which can hardly be attributable to sanitary defects, and that on the other hand the infantile mortality should show a decrease.

BIRTHS.—202 Births have been registered in your district. 2 were transferred away, leaving 200 as the actual number; this is equivalent to a birth-rate of 23·5 per 1,000 on a population of 8,500. This is a slightly higher figure than the last three years. The average for five years, 1908 to 1915, was 22·86, and for 1913, 18·47.

Of the 202 Births, 17 were illegitimate. For the past five years the figures are 22, 27, 13, 15, 17.

To return to an analysis of the Deaths:—

AGES AT DEATH.—16 were under one year, 7 were one and under two, 3 were two and under five, 5 were 5 and under 15, 4 were 15 and under 25, 16 were 25 and under 45, 23 were 45 and under 65, and 52 were over 65.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—Two were due to Enteric Fever, 2 were due to Diphtheria, 1 to Influenza, 14 to Phthisis or Consumption, 5 to Tubercular Meningitis, 2 to other forms of Tubercular Disease, 6 to Cancer, 1 Meningitis, 21 Organic Heart Disease, 4 Bronchitis, 5 Pneumonia, 1 to other forms of Respiratory Disease, 9 to Diarrhoea or Enteritis, 1 Cirrhosis of Liver, 8 to Nephritis and Bright's Disease, 1 to Accidents of Parturition, 3 Congenital Debility or Premature Births, 3 to Violent Deaths, and 38 to other defined but not classified diseases.

16 deaths under one year give an Infantile death-rate of 80 per 1,000 births, and can be considered to be satisfactory. It is considerably lower than last year, and below the average of 5 years 1908-1912.

26 deaths under 5 years of age give a rate of 3.03 per 1,000 living, and is the same as last year, and slightly below the average of previous 5 years, when the rate was 3.48.

52 deaths over 65 give a rate of 6.1 per 1,000 living, and is in excess of last year, when the figure was 4.82, and of the five previous years, when the figure was 4.66. For the five years 1908 to 1912 the rate for the whole county was 3.48. This strongly bears out my contention mentioned in previous reports, that we have an exceptionally large resident population of elderly people.

I regret, gentlemen, the next paragraph of my report is not so satisfactory, but it is not the first time your notice has been called to it, namely, the high death-rate from Consumption. In 1909, your late Medical Officer refers to this unpleasant feature, and says: "The most unsatisfactory point of the death-rate is the slight increase of Phthisis and other forms of Tubercular Diseases. That Hexham, with its many natural and sanitary advantages, should be competing with the other Urban Authorities of Northumberland for the greatest number of such diseases, shows plainly we are somewhere at fault. In my last annual report (for 1908), referring to Phthisis, I say this is mainly attributable to the structural conditions of portions of the older parts of the town, in which you have a number of houses without through ventilation, placed in narrow yards, in some instances with the soil abutting against the blank wall, causing dampness, and having little light and less sunshine in these houses, and in other tenemented property permitting overcrowding." Gentlemen, in my last three Annual Reports I have had to refer to the same question. I cannot put the position before you better than in the words I have just read from your late Medical Officer's reports of 1908 and 1909. I regret the



figures this year only emphasise the importance of grappling with the question.

During 1913, 11 deaths from Phthisis or Consumption gives a death-rate of 1·29 per 1,000 living; and with 1 death from other forms of Tubercle, gives a total Tuberculosis death-rate of 1·40 per 1,000 living.

Comparison of Average for 5 years.

Years.	Phthisis.		Total Tuberculosis Death Rate	
	Whole County	Hexham.	Whole County	Hexham.
1908 to 1912.	·946	1·19	1·504	1·972

For the year 1912, the figures were for 1,000 living:—Whole County, ·86; Urban Districts of County, ·85; Rural Districts, ·89; Hexham, 1·29.

Now for 1914 I have still worse figures to record. 14 deaths from Phthisis gives a death-rate of 1·64 per 1,000, and 21 from all forms of Tubercular Disease gives a rate of 2·4. I cannot say more than I said last year. I repeat and emphasise to you, gentlemen, that these figures are most unsatisfactory, the more so that a steady decrease was going on throughout the country in 1911. The Chief Medical Officer for the Local Government Board reports that for the year 1910, compared with the average of 1891—1900, Infantile Mortality had decreased 16 per cent., from Tuberculosis 29 per cent.; and in 1912 he reports, in a similar comparison, a reduction in Infantile Mortality of 38 per cent., Tuberculosis, 32 per cent. Whereas we have a practically stationary heavy mortality rate to record each year. This is much to be regretted, as so much has been done in the past, and we owe so many sanitary advantages to the foresight and energy of those who controlled the affairs of the town in the past. When I mention that your late Medical Officer used to say that the death-rate of Hexham for the three years preceding his taking office was 33 and a fraction, I need give no further evidence that much has been done. The slum property of the town has been greatly improved, and the owners, for the most part, are willing to do all in their power in this respect, but from the structural position, described in the paragraph I have read you, in many cases the only way to make one man's property sanitary is to pull down his neighbour's, and *vice-versa*. You will therefore, I hope, realise the

difficulty which exists. I am confident the building of workmen's houses, at a reasonable rent, would materially benefit the health of the town, and enormously add to the comfort of many of the workers ; and if this course could be done, together with a town improvement scheme, as has been done in many cases, the increase in the rates, if any, would be more than justified by the decrease in the death-rate, in the comfort, and physical, and moral improvements of many of the inhabitants, and increased prosperity of the town, because, with your many natural advantages, with your splendid water supply, and general up-to-dateness of your sanitary system, it only requires such an effort as I have urged to render Hexham one of the, if not the most, desirable residential towns in the North of England. This housing question is an urgent one, and I earnestly again call your attention to it. There is a deficiency in numbers, and overcrowding is prevalent in much of the poorer property. Your town falls far short of what is now considered to be the minimum requirements for healthy dwellings, and, as I have said, I fail to see how this can be largely remedied till you supply the deficiency in quantity which exists, and make those at present existing reasonably fit by entering upon a town improvement scheme, by which numbers would be reduced, and those remaining rendered nearer to the standard required.

Referring to Hexham, the Medical Officer of the County makes the following remarks in his report for 1912, to which I again earnestly draw your attention :—" There is much need in this district for a more vigorous application of the powers given under the Housing Acts, both as regards the improvement or closure of existing houses, and the provision of additional housing accommodation for the poorer working class population. The tabular returns under the Housing Regulations shows that, although 21 representations of houses unfit for human habitation were made, not a single closing order was issued. Doubtless the insufficiency of housing accommodation was one reason for the above inaction, and it is therefore all the more regrettable that no steps were taken by the Local Authority during the year under review to remedy the insufficiency."

" As long as the housing conditions, to which allusion has been made, are allowed to continue, the unenviable position which this district holds (despite its many natural advantages) as regards the death-rate from Tubercular Disease cannot be wondered at, as the intimate connection which exists between bad housing and Tuberculosis is universally acknowledged."

In his annual report for 1913, the Medical Officer of the County, referring to my report, says :—" Tuberculosis.—Attention was again directed to the high death rates from Phthisis

and other forms of Tuberculosis which have existed in this district for some years. The Phthisis death-rate for the year under review was in excess of the average rate for the preceding five years, and the Medical Officer points out that 'the figures this year emphasise the importance of grappling with the question.' That a town with such undoubted natural advantages and (excluding housing accommodation) so well provided for as regards general sanitary administration should be maintaining such an unenviable record is sufficient proof that methods hitherto adopted for stemming this 'waste of human life' are insufficient. The removal of those conditions to which reference is made in the preceding paragraph, and which past experience has proved to have such a marked bearing upon the causation and spread of this disease is a duty which should not be shirked, and if this duty remains unfulfilled the money now being spent in other directions for dealing with this disease will be to a great extent wasted."

I have again, gentlemen, for the third year in succession, gone somewhat fully into this question, and I cannot put the necessity for action stronger than I have already done. The figures given you this year again bear out even more decisively than before the urgency of this question of housing. I must leave it, therefore, with you, as the Sanitary Authority of the district, to decide whether you are justified in again postponing action in this matter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—105 cases have been notified during the year. This is a smaller number than in the two previous years, when the numbers were 144 and 198, but last year measles was responsible for 142 notifications. This year only 15 cases have been notified.

28 cases of Scarlet Fever this year stands against 10 last year.

26	„	Enteric	„	„	2	„
17	„	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	„	„	6	„
27	„	Diphtheria	„	„	0	„

So that though there is a diminution in the total, the cases reported are of a more serious nature.

37 cases were treated in your Hospital. Of these 21 were Scarlet Fever, 5 Diphtheria, and 11 Typhoid.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. JACKSON, M.D.,

Lic. Sanitary Science.



# Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909..	8500	214		25.17	111	14.05	18	11	19	88.78	100	11.76
1910..	8500	205		24.11	125	14.45	17	11	20	99.53	112	13.17
1911..	8500	201		22.94	137	16.11	19	3	28	139.3	122	14.35
1912..	8500	183	195	21.52	130	15.29	13	9	11	60.1	126	14.8
1913..	8500	163	157	18.47	119	13.88	12	4	23	146.46	111	13.05
1914.	8500	202	200	23.5	121	14.23	8	13	16	80	126	14.82

NOTES.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affect the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)—5,149

Total population at all ages.....8,500

At Census of 1911.



Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases notified in each Locality.					Total cases re-moved to hospital	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4	5		
		Under I.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65							65 and upwds
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	27	..	5	16	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	28	..	6	20	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	26	1	2	8	5	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Relapsing Fever														
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Men'g's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmic N. ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tubercul'is	17	..	1	..	6	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms do. ..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	{ 15 }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pertussis ..	{ 33 }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals (exclusive of Measles and Pertussis)	105	3	15	44	18	23	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	37

Isolation Hospital.—Urban District Isolation Hospital at East End of Town,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from Railway Station.  
No. of diseases concurrently treated—2 in ordinary course, 3 in emergency.

## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1914.

Causes of Death.		Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or non-Residents in Institutions in the District
		All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upw'rds	
I		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	Certified (c) ..	120	16	7	3	5	4	15	21	49	21
	Uncertified ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	..	14	..	1	..	1	1	6	3	2	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	5	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Rheumatic Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	18	1
Bronchitis .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	5	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	..	9	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Alcoholism Apoplexy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	3	1
Senile Decay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases or Pregnancy & Parturition ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Apoplexy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent deaths excluding suicide ..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	..	38	4	1	1	..	..	4	6	22	5
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		126	16	7	3	5	4	16	23	52	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	38	16								

## Infant Mortality During 1914.

Net Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified.	15	3	1	1	1	6	4	2	3	1	16
	Uncertified.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Smallpox	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Chicken-pox	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Measles	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Scarlet Fever	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Whooping Cough	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diphtheria and Croup	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Erysipelas	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ( <i>b</i> )	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Convulsions	-	-	2	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	4
{ Laryngitis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Bronchitis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
{ Diarrhœa	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
{ Enteritis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4
{ Gastritis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Syphilis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Rickets	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Suffocation, overlying	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Injury at Birth	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Atelectasis	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Congenital Malformations ( <i>c</i> )	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
{ Premature Birth	-	-	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atrophy, Debility, and	-	-	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	...
{ Marasmus	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other causes	-	-	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Larcoma	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			3	1	1	1	6	4	2	3	1	10

Nett Births { Legitimate, 183. in the year { Illegitimate, 17.	Nett deaths { Legitimate 14. in the year { Illegitimate 2.
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# Surveyor's & Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1914.

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GENTLEMEN,

From the tables appended it will be seen that 1,407 visits have been made to various premises in the district, the outcome of which was the finding of 735 nuisances, all of which have been taken in hand and the majority rectified.

During the past year five houses have been certified as fit for habitation, making a total of 33 since the census of 1911.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The summer of 1914 was of an extraordinary nature, the total rainfall for the ten months ending October being only 17·10 inches, but during November and December 10·21 inches of rain fell, bringing the total for the year up to 27·31 inches—the average rainfall for the previous seven years was 34·31. The lowest rainfall during those seven years was in the preceding year, 1913, when it was 28·00 inches, and as the winter intervening the summers of 1913 and 1914 was fairly dry, it will be understood that the yield of the Springs at Ladle Wells was considerably affected. At the end of October the Springs were yielding 123,000 gallons per day, which was 14,000 gallons per day less than the previous lowest reading contained in the records, which extend over a period of 14 years. At that time the Storage Reservoir only contained 4,500,000 gallons, and as the average consumption of water amounts to 250,000 gallons per day, the margin of safety was not very great. However, at the end of the year the Council was negotiating for the acquisition of additional springs in the neighbourhood of Ladle Wells.

During July several cases of Typhoid Fever were notified, and their origin traced to the shallow spring at Lowgate, from which the inhabitants of Lowgate and neighbourhood derived their supply of water for domestic purposes. A joint report of the Medical Officer of Health and myself, dated the 21st of July, was presented to the Council, and with commendable promptitude the suggestion that the town supply be carried to Lowgate was agreed to, and the work of laying the necessary water mains was almost completed at the end of the year—when completed the water supply of Lowgate will be above suspicion.

The houses in the neighbourhood of Hextol Terrace experienced a shortage of supply, and on the 23rd November I

presented a report to the Council dealing with the subject, and it was agreed to carry out the works necessary to remedy the matter ; this involves a new distributing main from High Shield Reservoir. A public enquiry was held on the 2nd December by Mr. T. H. Tulloch, an Inspector of the Local Government Board, and when the work is carried out the supply of water to Hextol Terrace, Causey Hill, the Hydropathic, and portions of Burswell Estate will be greatly improved.

The water from Ladle Wells has always maintained its exceptionally high quality.

The following lengths of water main have been laid during the past year, viz., 1,599 feet of 4", 1,050 feet of 3", and 104 feet of 2".

30 defective iron services have been replaced by lead pipes, and 5 new service connections made.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—The construction of the percolating filters was completed early in the year, and the tanks and beds have since been working continuously. Careful attention has been paid to the works, and the sewage effluent has been quite good and satisfactory.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.—The lengths of Drains and Sewers laid and tested during the year are as follows:—

660 feet of 4 inch.

34 feet of 6 inch.

As the original manholes were a considerable distance apart, two new ones were constructed on the sewer in Eastgate. All the sewers in the town have been regularly flushed and cleansed.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILKSHOPS.—The number of premises on the Register is 33. These have been regularly inspected, and in five cases defects were found four of which had been remedied at the end of the year. The structural condition of the premises is generally good. The Cowsheds, &c., were all lime-washed during the year.

PUBLIC SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. — The additions to the Slaughter-houses were completed, and there is now accommodation for all the butchers to slaughter at the same time. The sheep pens and cattle lairs have also been enlarged, and have been found quite sufficient for their purpose. It was found necessary to condemn three carcasses of beef during the year. There are no private slaughter-houses in the town, and this fact allows the inspection of the meat supply to be more satisfactorily carried out, and ensures the killing and preparing to be carried out under proper conditions.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.—Other than meat, the only articles of food condemned during the year were two boxes of fish.

WORKSHOPS.—There are 65 Workshops on the Register, and 86 inspections were made. There are 10 registered Bake-houses, and these have generally been found in a satisfactory condition. There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are four offensive trades carried on in the district, but these are well conducted and no nuisance has been discovered, nor has any complaint been received with respect to them during the year.

SCAVENGING.—The house refuse has been collected daily, and there are no ashpits in the urban portion of the district, the only ones in existence being those in connection with about 60 outlying farms and other houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.—All the premises in which cases of infectious disease were notified have been disinfected by the Council's staff, including a number of houses where cases of consumption have occurred. During the year the Council obtained the sanction of the Managers of the Public Elementary Schools to disinfect the premises during the school holidays. This has been done, and the effect will no doubt be beneficial to the public health and is a step in the right direction.

HOSPITAL.—The work in connection with the installation of the heating apparatus at the Infectious Diseases Hospital was completed, and has proved a great improvement on the old system of heating by means of closed stoves in each ward.

The Council also purchased an Ambulance Brougham for the conveyance of patients to the Hospital, and the full cost of the vehicle has already been recouped to the Council by the saving of the charges which would otherwise have been incurred under the old system of ambulance hire.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND AMBULANCE SHED.—The Council agreed to erect a Public Mortuary and Ambulance Shed in the north-east corner of the Hospital Field, and the contract for its erection was let in December, and the work was proceeding at the beginning of the year.

PLEASURE GROUNDS.—All the dead branches on the trees in the Abbey Grounds and on the Seal were removed, and the trunks painted with tar at the point of removal so as to prevent water gaining access thereto.

A quantity of new seats were provided and placed in the Abbey Grounds.



The new Entrance Gates to the Seal, in Hencotes, which have been erected to commemorate the gift of the Seal to the town by Viscount Allendale, have been completed, and about fifty yards of railings have been fixed adjoining the main entrance to the Abbey Grounds.

The Council agreed to proceed with the work of erecting a Tea Room Shelter on Tyne Green, and the contract was let in December.

FOOTPATHS.—Several guide posts indicating the public footpaths in and around the town have been erected, and the surfaces of most of the paths have been improved.

Yours obediently,

JAMES W. POOLEY,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

# HOUSING (Inspection of District) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Tabular Statement as required by Article V.

Sanitary Districts.  Parishes or Sub-districts.	No. of Dwelling houses In- spected	No. of Dwelling houses which, on inspection, considered unfit for human habitation.		No. of Repre- sentations made to Local Author- ity with a view to closing orders being made.		CLOSING ORDERS		No of Dwellings in which defects remedied with- out closing orders being made.	No of Dwellings put into fit state for human habi- tation after Closing Order made.	General Characters of Defects Found
						No. of Closing Orders made	No. of Houses vacant at end of each year in consequence.			
Hexham U.D....	347	23		5		1	1	8	9	Dilapidated floors, roofs, staircases, &c Lack of ventilation and light. Damp walls, In- sufficient W.C. accommodation. Many defects have been dealt with under the P.H.A., 1875.





# **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, & HOMEWORK.**

## **1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	37	6	...
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	86	7	...
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report)	...	...	...
Total ... ..	123	13	...

## **2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.**

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	5	4	...	...
Want of Ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary { insufficient	4	3	...	...
accommodation { unsuitable or defective	3	2	...	...
{ not separate for sexes	1	...	...	...
{ want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	13	9	...	...

3.—Home Work.

NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers		
	Sending twice in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con- tractors.	Work- men.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
(1) making, &c. ... ..	2	...	2
(2) cleaning and washing ... ..	...	...	...
Household linen ... ..	...	...	...
Lace, lace curtains and nets ... ..	...	...	...
Curtains and furniture hangings ... ..	...	...	...
Furniture and upholstery ... ..	1	...	1
Electro-plate ... ..	...	...	...
File making ... ..	...	...	...
Brass and brass articles ... ..	...	...	...
Fur pulling ... ..	...	...	...
Cables and chains ... ..	...	...	...
Anchors and grapnels ... ..	...	...	...
Cart gear ... ..	...	...	...
Locks, latches and keys ... ..	...	...	...
Umbrellas, &c ... ..	...	...	...
Artificial flowers ... ..	...	...	...
Nets, other than wire nets ... ..	...	...	...
Tents ... ..	...	...	...
Sacks ... ..	...	...	...
Racquet and tennis balls ... ..	...	...	...
Paper bags and boxes ... ..	...	...	...
Brush making ... ..	...	...	...
Pea picking ... ..	...	...	...
Feather sorting ... ..	...	...	...
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ... ..	...	...	...
Stuffed toys ... ..	...	...	...
Basket making ... ..	...	...	...
Total ... ..	3	...	3

#### 4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s 131) at the end of the year.					No. (2)
1					
Important classes of work-shops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here	Bakehouses ... ..				10
	Other Workshops ... ..				55
					65

#### 5.—Other Matters.

Class (1)					No. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—					
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory & Workshop Act (s. 133) ...					...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {					...
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...					...
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector...					...
Other ... ..					...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—					
Certificates granted during the year ... ..					...
In use at the end of the year ... ..					...